

# Learning English with CBC Calgary

## Weekly newscast

# February 13<sup>th</sup>, 2015

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### Objectives of the weekly newscast lesson

- to develop listening skills at the CLB 4 level
- to increase vocabulary among learners
- to increase knowledge of news stories
- to provide a self-study tool, as well as, an ESL classroom resource



[www.alberta.ca](http://www.alberta.ca)

<http://www.cbc.ca/calgary/learning-english/>

## News story #1 Captain of the Costa Concordia

Do you remember the story of the cruise ship that sunk in 2012 off the coast of Italy? The captain left the ship before many of the passengers and crew. This week he was found guilty of manslaughter.

Before you listen to the first news story, complete this vocabulary activity. It will help you to understand the listening more easily.

### Vocabulary

Choose the group of synonyms (words with similar meaning) that best match each of the vocabulary words. *Answers are in the appendix.*

Answer	Word from the story	Related words
	1) cruise liner	a) workers ship employees
	2) coast	b) ship huge boat
	3) manslaughter	c) objection request for a new decision
	4) crew	d) shore line beach
	5) reckless	e) decision judgment
	6) verdict	f) murder unplanned
	7) appeal	g) irresponsible thoughtless

### Extra definitions to help you understand the reading:

**reef** – large rocks not attached to the mainland, that form an island that may be hard to see

Now listen to the first news story from the audio file.

### Listening activity: Chronological order

Order the following sentences in order of the time they occurred. *Answers are in the appendix.*

1. \_\_\_\_ Captain Francesco Schettino was found guilty of manslaughter.
2. \_\_\_\_ Thirty two people were killed.
3. \_\_\_\_ Schettino has the right to two legal appeals, and may never go to prison.
4. \_\_\_\_ The Costa Concordia cruise line hit a reef off the coast of Tuscan, Italy.
5. \_\_\_\_ Prosecutors called Schettino a “reckless idiot.”
6. \_\_\_\_ Schettino was the captain of the cruise ship but he left the ship before many others.
7. \_\_\_\_ Schettino was sentenced to 16 years in prison.

**Discussion Question:** Do you think it is right that Schettino can appeal his case (ask for another-trial)? Why we have appeals?

## News story #2      Quebec Family Infected with Measles

Have you heard of the measles virus? There is currently an outbreak of the measles in the U.S. and Canada and some people are angry that other people choose not to vaccinate their children.

Before you listen to the second news story, complete this vocabulary activity.

### Vocabulary

Use one of the vocabulary words below to complete the sentences. *Answers are in the appendix.*

<b>confirm</b>	to agree with or show something to be true
<b>infected</b>	to have gotten a disease from someone else
<b>link</b>	joining two things; two things are related or connected
<b>outbreak</b>	when a disease is spreading quickly to others
<b>vaccinate</b>	to protect yourself from a disease with a vaccination (medicine)
<b>virus</b>	a disease that can spread from person to person
<b>miracle</b>	magical, something amazing or of great benefit
<b>refuse</b>	to say 'no' to something; to deny someone something

### Extra definitions to help you understand the reading:

**measles** – a disease that spreads quickly through the air and affects people's skin – creating terrible open sores that are very painful and itchy

**philosophical** – describing one's beliefs about truths in life

1. There has been a measles \_\_\_\_\_ in North America in the past year.
2. Measles is only one example of a \_\_\_\_\_ that spreads quickly.
3. If you want to protect your children from the measles you must \_\_\_\_\_ them.
4. Some people \_\_\_\_\_ to get vaccines because of a belief that these medicines have bad side-effects. Many of these 'side effects' have not been scientifically \_\_\_\_\_.
5. There is no proven \_\_\_\_\_ between vaccines and the occurrence of autism.
6. If a child gets \_\_\_\_\_ with the measles he/she will suffer terribly.
7. Most doctors believe that vaccines are close to \_\_\_\_\_ because they save lives.

Now listen to the second news story from the audio file.

### Listening Activity: True/False

Decide whether the statements below are **true** or **false**. *Answers are in the appendix.*

1. \_\_\_\_\_ 10 members of a Quebec family may have been infected with the measles.
2. \_\_\_\_\_ Health officials link this family's infection to California.
3. \_\_\_\_\_ The 8 adults and 2 children were not vaccinated.
4. \_\_\_\_\_ Disneyland in California has been linked to less than 100 cases of the measles.
5. \_\_\_\_\_ There are people in Alberta and Manitoba with the measles infection.
6. \_\_\_\_\_ The health Minister says people who do not vaccinate their children are very irresponsible.

### Discussion Question

Have you been vaccinated against the measles? How about your kids? Does your country encourage people to get vaccinations? What is the government's policy about vaccinations in your country?

### News story #3      Soldier Killed in an Avalanche

Have you ever been skiing or hiking in the Rocky Mountains? Have you heard of people being caught in an avalanche? This story is about a trained soldier who lost his life in an avalanche.

Before you listen to the third news story, complete this vocabulary activity. It will help you to understand the listening more easily.

**Vocabulary**      Match the words with their definitions. *Answers are in the appendix.*

Answer	Word	Definition
	1. issue	a) to be moved along with something (a wave or moving snow)
	2. statement	b) to (silently) call someone; to motion to come forward
	3. consoled	c) to say something in public; to publish
	4. majestic	d) a great amount of snow that slides down a mountain
	5. beckon	e) words or ideas said aloud or written on paper
	6. technician	f) working mostly in a certain place
	7. based in	g) amazing; gorgeous; hugely beautiful
	8. swept away	h) to be under something
	9. avalanche	i) to make someone feel better despite their sadness
	10. beneath	j) a person who specializes in repairing things; with technical knowledge

**Extra definitions to help you understand the reading:**

**Sergeant** – a ranking of a soldier in the army

### Listening Activity: Short Answer

Read and answer the questions below. *Answers are in the appendix.*

1. What did Sergeant Mark Salesse's family tell the public?
2. What did Salesse's family mean when they said the mountains "beckoned him"?
3. How old was Mark Salesse?
4. Where was Mark Salesse based?
5. Why was Sergeant Salesse in Banff National Park?
6. What happened to Sergeant Salesse?

### Discussion Question

From the terrible death of Sergeant Salesse, we can learn the awesome power of nature. What should you know before you explore in the Rocky Mountains? What are some dangers that exist in the mountains? What safety precautions can you take while you are skiing, hiking, camping....etc.



## Language Focus

### Reported Speech

We use reported speech to explain what another person says or believes. When we report what another person says we often use 'reporting verbs' like **say, tell, explain, call, report, believe, thought, ask, argue, suggest...** We usually put these verbs in the past tense because we are repeating what someone said at some time in the past.


"Schettino was a reckless idiot."  Prosecutors said Schettino was a "reckless idiot."

- We have to pay attention how we transform their words into reported speech. Sometimes we have to make changes in order to report their ideas correctly.

"Your son was buried beneath 4 ½ metres of snow"  "They told **me my** son was buried beneath 4 ½ metres of snow."  Military officials told **her** that **her son** was buried beneath 4 ½ metres of snow.

**Note:** we need to change the pronouns and sometimes have to conjugate (change) the verb for the (third person singular.) We should also pay attention to time expressions if they are used.


- Other times we do not have to make any changes. If the speakers are talking about a situation and do not add their own opinions we do not have to make changes to their speech.

"The two adults and eight children were not vaccinated for religious or philosophical reasons."  The two adults and eight children were not vaccinated for what officials say were religious or philosophical reasons.

"Vaccines are miracles of modern medicine."  Federal Health Minister Rona Ambrose says vaccines are miracles of modern medicine.

Listen to the stories again. Pay attention to the reported speech. Try to hear which reporting verbs are used and who said what facts.

Now try to use reported speech to report something your teacher taught you today. Use several of the reporting verbs mentioned above as you mention details of your teacher's lesson.

Example: Teacher: You should always do your homework before class.  The teacher explained that I should always do my homework before class.

	FEBRUARY 13 <sup>TH</sup> WEEKLY NEWS STORIES	TIME
Introduction	Hi, this is Don Bell. You're listening to Learning English with CBC for February 13 <sup>th</sup> .	0:00
Story 1	The captain of the Costa Concordia cruise liner that hit a reef off Italy's Tuscan coast is going to prison for 16 years. Francesco Schettino was found guilty of manslaughter Wednesday. Thirty-two people were killed in 2012 when the cruise ship began filling with water near Giglio Island. Schettino was in command but left the ship before many passengers and crew had time to get off. Prosecutors said Schettino was a "reckless idiot". Despite the guilty verdict, Francesco Schettino may never go to prison. He has the right to two legal appeals ... which could take years to complete.	0:13
Story 2	Ten members of a Quebec family are confirmed to have been infected with measles and health officials are linking it to a large outbreak in California. The two adults and eight children were not vaccinated for what officials say were religious or philosophical reasons. Quebec's director of public health said at least one of the 10 had visited Disneyland. The U-S Centers for Disease Control says Disneyland is so far linked to more than a hundred cases of measles in seven states. The measles virus is also causing infections in Ontario and Manitoba. Federal Health Minister Rona Ambrose says vaccines are miracles of modern medicine and any parent who refuses to protect their children from infectious diseases is "really irresponsible".	1:16
Story 3	The family of Sergeant. Mark Salesse has issued a statement, telling the world they feel consoled by the fact he died doing what he loved, "in the majestic mountains that so beckoned him." The 44 year old search and rescue technician who was based in Winnipeg was on an ice climbing training exercise in Banff National Park when he was swept away by an avalanche. Salesse's mother, Liz Quinn, said in the statement she was told by military officials that her son was buried beneath 4 ½ metres of snow.	2:34

## Answer keys

### News story 1

#### Vocabulary

Answer	Word from the story	Related words
<b>b</b>	1) cruise liner	a) workers ship employees
<b>d</b>	2) coast	b) ship huge boat
<b>f</b>	3) manslaughter	c) objection request for a new decision
<b>a</b>	4) crew	d) shore line beach
<b>g</b>	5) reckless	e) decision judgment
<b>e</b>	6) verdict	f) murder unplanned
<b>c</b>	7) appeal	g) irresponsible thoughtless

#### Listening

1. 4 Captain Francesco Schettino was found guilty of manslaughter.
2. 3 Thirty two people were killed.
3. 7 Schettino has the right to two legal appeals, and may never go to prison.
4. 1 The Costa Concordia cruise line hit a reef off the coast of Tuscan, Italy.
5. 6 Prosecutors called Schettino a “reckless idiot.”
6. 2 Schettino was the captain of the cruise ship but he left the ship before many others.
7. 5 Schettino was sentenced to 16 years in prison.

### News story 2

#### Vocabulary

1. There has been a measles outbreak in North America in the past year.
2. Measles is only one example of a virus that spreads quickly.
3. If you want to protect your children from the measles you must vaccinate them.
4. Some people refuse to get vaccines because of a belief that these medicines have bad side-effects. Many of these ‘side effects’ have not been scientifically confirmed.
5. There is no proven line between vaccines and the occurrence of autism.

6. If a child gets infected with the measles he/she will suffer terribly.
7. Most doctors believe that vaccines are close to miracles because they save lives.

### Listening

1. F 10 members of a Quebec family **may** have been infected with the measles.
2. T Health officials link this family's infection to California.
3. F The 8 **adults** and 2 **children** were not vaccinated.
4. F Disneyland in California has been linked to **less than** 100 cases of the measles.
5. F There are people in **Alberta** and Manitoba with the measles infection.
6. T The health Minister says people who do not vaccinate their children are very irresponsible.

### News story 3

#### Vocabulary

Answer	Word	Definition
<b>c</b>	1. issue	a) to be moved along with something (a wave or moving snow)
<b>e</b>	2. statement	b) to (silently) call someone; to motion to come forward
<b>i</b>	3. consoled	c) to say something in public; to publish
<b>g</b>	4. majestic	d) a great amount of snow that slides down a mountain
<b>b</b>	5. beckon	e) words or ideas said aloud or written on paper
<b>j</b>	6. technician	f) working mostly in a certain place
<b>f</b>	7. based in	g) amazing; gorgeous; hugely beautiful
<b>a</b>	8. swept away	h) to be under something
<b>d</b>	9. avalanche	i) to make someone feel better despite their sadness
<b>h</b>	10. beneath	j) a person who specializes in repairing things; with technical knowledge

### Listening

1. What did Sergeant Mark Salesse's family tell the public? **They feel consoled by the fact that he died doing what he loved.**
2. What did Salesse's family mean when they said the mountains "beckoned him?" **Sergeant Salesse was called to the mountains; he was attracted to the mountains, he loved them.**
3. How old was Mark Salesse? **44 years old**
4. Where was Mark Salesse based? **Winnipeg**
5. Why was Sergeant Salesse in Banff National Park? **He was on an ice climbing training exercise.**
6. What happened to Sergeant Salesse? **He caught in an avalanche. He was buried under 4 ½ metres of snow.**